

The Jessica Wilkes Award Year 2 (2009-2010)

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April 2009

Stephanie Kingston recipient of the Jessica Wilkes Award

Acme Studios is delighted to announce that the second recipient of the annual Jessica Wilkes Award is **Stephanie Kingston**.

The award, worth £10,000, is open to all Acme studio tenants whose practice involves drawing. Jessica was an Acme tenant for many years before she died in November 2005 aged 56. A fine art graduate of Newcastle University, Jessica moved to London in 1975 where she completed an MA in Painting at Chelsea School of Art.

Jessica taught at the Byam Shaw School of Art and had strong connections with the Bermondsey Artists' Group. She exhibited her paintings extensively throughout her professional life and was instrumental in supporting other studio groups.

Jessica's wish was that other artists would be given the opportunity to have practical and financial breathing space to concentrate on their practice. Drawing was key to

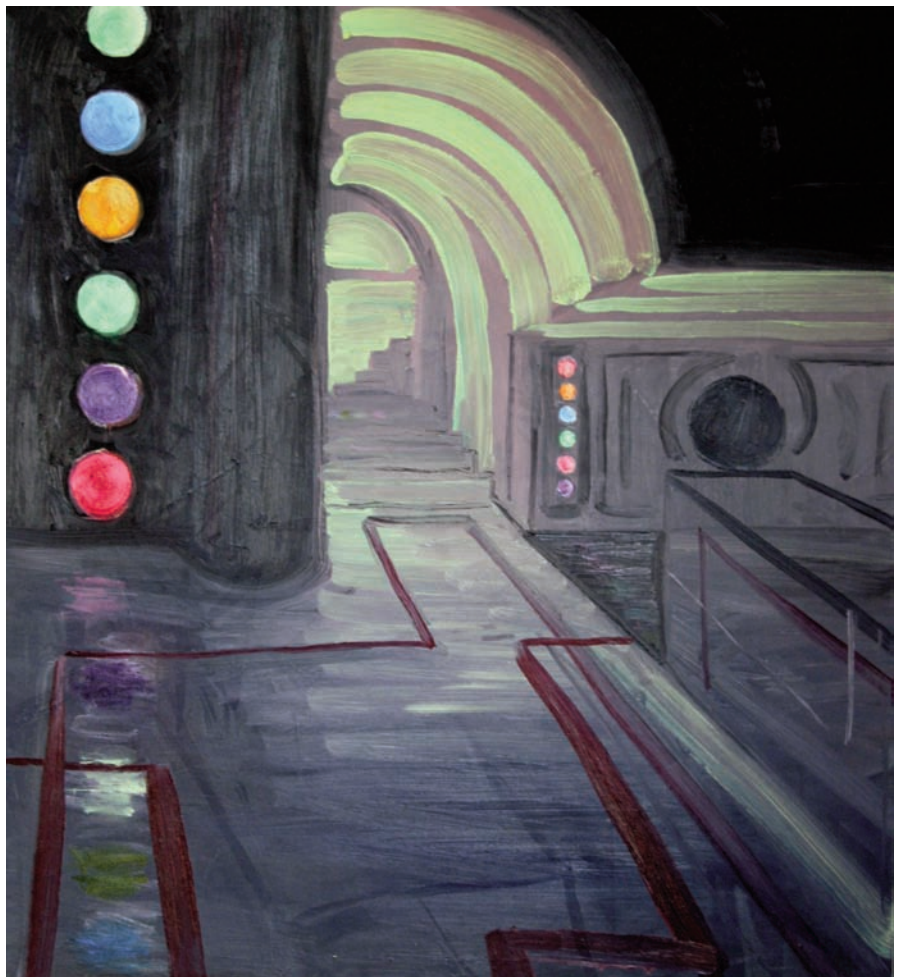
Jessica's own practice and she hoped that artists who shared this approach would benefit from her bequest.

This is the second year of the award and a total of 40 applications were received. A panel consisting of Joanna Hewison (Jessica's sister) Melissa Appleton (Jessica's niece), Clyde Hopkins (artist and friend), Jonathan Harvey, Acme Studios, Chief Executive and Julia Lancaster, Acme

Residency & Projects Manager, visited six short-listed artists in their studios. From this very strong short-list Stephanie Kingston was selected to receive the award.

Stephanie currently works at The Galleria studios in Southwark. She is a painter who has been consistently dedicated to her practice despite limitations on her time

Stephanie Kingston,
Discs, oil on canvas, 2007



and opportunities. The award comes at an important time in Stephanie's professional career coinciding with a re-structuring of her circumstances. The award will allow Stephanie "to invest money into the production of the work, not just scrimping on cheapest paints and canvas."

"As important as the financial backing has been the support from the panel."

Stephanie was recently successful in showing work in the John Moores 25 Painting Prize. She now plans "to show a group of paintings with control over the installation."

The themes of memories and half remembered ideas and places are central to Stephanie's work. Her initial plans are to produce a body of work based on her uncle's house where Stephanie spent a lot of time as a child, which is no longer occupied.

For Stephanie the award is about more than the money, "As important as the financial backing has been the support from the panel. Having the backing of Acme makes you feel you are not working in isolation." Panelist Clyde Hopkins will continue to offer advice and support to Stephanie throughout the year of the award.

Howard Dyke (2008-2009)

Stephanie is the second Acme tenant to benefit from the Jessica Wilkes Award. The inaugural award went to Howard Dyke who has enjoyed a productive year.

Howard will be exhibiting some of the work he has created during the year of his award at the Acme Project Space in Bethnal Green, 4 June – 29 June 2009.

Formerly home to The Showroom Gallery, Acme

Project Space is a new flexible venue which will, in part, be used to support the work of Acme's expanding Residency, Awards and Community Programme. Acme is delighted that Howard Dyke will be the first artist to exhibit in the new space, extending the support of the award.

Acme Studios provides studios, work/live space, residencies and awards for artists in economic need and is the UK's leading development agency for artists' space.

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